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became quite fit to drink. It is evident that, in this case, the well performed the part of an emunctory. It served to wash the body of the soil by means of the water which was drawn down to it, dissolving and bringing with it the animal substances through which it passed. This action is naturally very slow, and depends upon the quantity of rain-water imbibed by the earth, and flowing down to the interior of the well; but it cannot be denied that, in general, when there are many wells in a town, they contribute to the gradual purification of the soil, especially if, at the same time, the preventive measures above indicated be adopted. But here an important observation suggests itself with regard to paving, and that is, that the paving, which in some degree prevents the soil on which towns are built from being penetrated with infectious matter, in the same degree prevents it from being cleansed by the rain which falls upon it, and would otherwise sink into it. This was remarked by the sagacious Franklin, who, in his will, observed that the soil of towns being paved and covered with houses, the rain is carried off, instead of penetrating the earth and renewing and purifying the springs; in consequence of which the water from the wells becomes worse every day, till in old towns it is not fit to drink. He therefore recommended the municipal authorities of Philadelphia to have water conveyed thither from Wissahickon Creek by means of pipes. There is evidently no other means of remedying the evil than to have pure water laid on from without; but at the same time it is desirable not to abandon the use of wells wherever they can be sunk, because of their valuable action as emunctories, when the subterranean water that gradually accumulates in them is occasionally exhausted.

A third resource, and one which is likely to be more effectual than any other, consists in the raising of plantations near the town. As an eminent engineer observes, if the utility of trees in preventing the impoverishment of sloping ground, and mitigating the evil effects of violent or continuous rain, is undeniable, they must be no less serviceable in constantly counteracting the unhealthiness produced, or on the point of being produced, in populous towns by organic matter and the excessive dampness of the soil. The roots of the trees, by spreading out in all directions within the soil, relieve it of the moisture, charged with organic and saline materials, that it has imbibed. At the same time the more distant portions

of the roots, by virtue of the law of capillary attraction, give back to the earth a portion of the water with which they are overcharged; and thus, if the trees are sufficiently numerous and suitably arranged, a subterranean circulation is established. Hence we have here self-acting emunctories, far more efficient than wells, because they can be multiplied to a greater extent. It has been ascertained by experiment that a sunflower, placed in a glazed flower-pot covered with a sheet of lead, so as merely to let the stem come through, will evaporate as much as twenty-eight pints of water in the course of only twelve hours. What, then, must have been the quantity if the experiment had been made upon a tree? At the same time that the water is thus drawn off, it is purified. The pure liquid is diffused through the atmosphere, and contributes to freshen and improve the air. The salts and organic substances are absorbed by the roots, and serve as nourishment to the tree; so that, by this happy combination, the very deleterious substances themselves are employed to sustain the agents destined to counteract them. But in proportion to the efficacy of this measure in promoting the health and improving the aspect of towns, is the necessity of careful consideration with regard to the number and arrangement of the trees in different quarters, the choice of such as are suitable for their respective positions, and the steps to be taken in order that the roots, as they extend, may meet with sufficient nourishment without ever passing through beds impregnated with substances that are deleterious, or deprived of the oxygen of the atmosphere. Unless these precautions are adopted, the success of the method must be greatly impaired, if not altogether nullified, because the plantations cannot thrive.

We have yet much to learn on this subject, but when the public mind is more fully alive to its importance, it is to be hoped no method will be left untried which has any chance of proving effectual. Surely if anything were needed to convince even the most obtuse and inert of the urgent necessity of prompt and vigorous measures of some sort, the recent outbreak of that dreadful pestilence which is now making such fearful havoc in almost every portion of the globe, is more than sufficient for the purpose. A matter of this sort should neither be left entirely in the hands of official authorities, nor be altogether beyond their control. There must be a co-operation between private individuals and public bodies.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE ARSENAL AT VENICE.

THE tragedies of Shakspeare and Otway, the descriptive poetry of Byron and Rogers, and the truthful pictures of Canaletto, have given to non-travelling people a more distinct impression of Venice than of any other continental city. But the Queen of the Adriatic has another fame than that which she derives from the Muses. Unassociated as she is with classic memories and remains, Venice was, ere she fell, through her degeneracy, under the yoke of Austria, the oldest of the modern states of Europe. She dated her rise seven centuries earlier than the emancipation of the towns of Lombardy, and her independence survived that of Florence by three hundred years. "Venice," says Sismondi, "witnessed the long agony and the termination of the Roman empire; in the West, the birth of the French power, when Clovis conquered Gaul; the rise and fall of the Ostrogoths in Italy, of the Visigoths in Spain, of the Lombards, who succeeded to the first, of the Saracens, who dispossessed the second. Venice saw the empire of the caliphs rise, threaten to invade the world, divide, and decay. Long the ally of the Byzantine emperors, she, by turns, succoured and oppressed them; she carried off trophies from their capital; she shared their provinces, and joined to her other titles that of a fourth and a half of the Roman empire. She saw the Eastern empire fall, and the ferocious Mussulmans rise on its ruins. She saw the French monarchy give way; and alone, immovable, this proud republic contemplated the kingdoms and the nations which passed before her. But, after all the rest, she sunk in her turn; and the state which linked the present to the past, and joined the two epochs of the civilisation of the universe, has ceased to exist."

But, long before the period of her final downfall, the naval power of Venice had departed and her commercial greatness passed

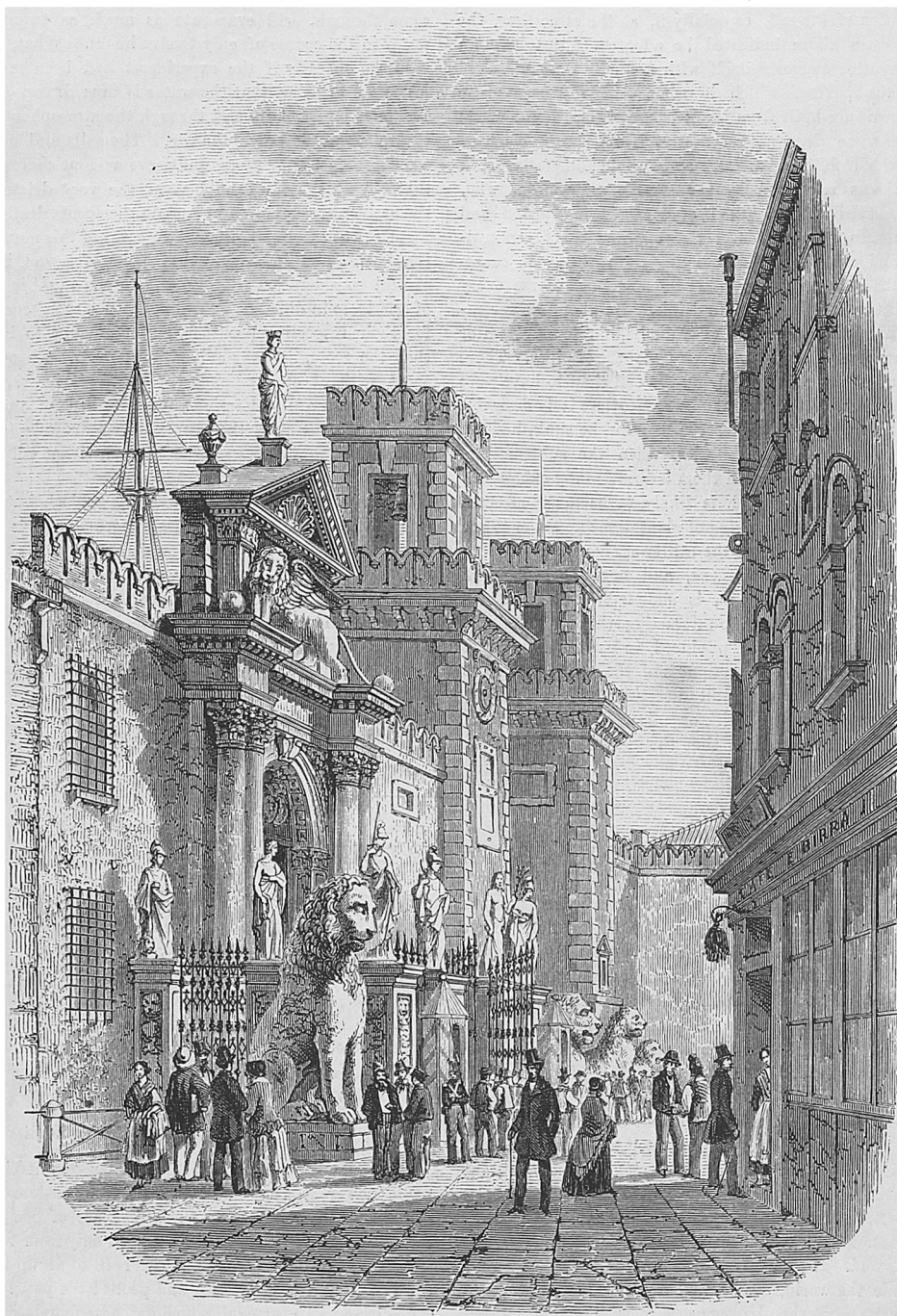
away. The discovery of the Cape route to India struck a severe blow at her commerce, and, together with the discovery of America, and the new direction thereby given to commercial enterprise, injured her more than the league of Cambray or the fleets of the Ottomans. Spain and Portugal rose in power and wealth as Venice declined. Under the Austrian rule, the last remains of her commerce have been transferred to Trieste; and now her quays are deserted, the Rialto is no longer a place "where merchants must do congregate," and on her sleeping canals

"Silent rows the songless gondolier."

The buildings which recal the former commercial greatness and naval power of Venice are the Dogana, or custom-house, the mole, and the arsenal, but the two former are of comparatively recent construction. The custom-house dates only from the 17th century, and the mole was constructed in the 18th to fill up the gaps between the low islands next the sea, and protect the port from the swell of the Adriatic. The arsenal, which dates its foundation as far back as the year 1304, and which the Republic, in the days of its prosperity and glory, repeatedly enlarged and embellished, is surrounded by strong walls and towers. Its entire circumference is estimated at more than two miles. The principal entrance on land, which is here engraved, is in itself a magnificent monument. The arch of the door is decorated with sculptures executed at the close of the sixteenth century by the disciples of Sansovino; the four marble columns which support the pediment and entablature are more ancient, having been executed or conveyed here about A.D. 1460, according to general belief. It was natural that the lion of St. Mark should be placed above the arch as the guardian and pro-

pector of the navy. On the summit of the pediment stands the statue of St. Justina, sculptured by Girolamo Campagna. It is a reminiscence of the victory obtained by the Venetians over the Turks on St. Justina's day, in the year 1571. The other statues placed on pilasters behind the railings, representing Victory, Wisdom, Power, and other allegorical personages, recall the same event.

winding about the mane of the noble animal, which have long tasked the ingenuity and learning of those who have attempted to decipher them. As yet all the efforts bestowed upon their interpretation have proved of little avail. Among others who have turned their attention to them, we may mention Akerblad and Vilhoisson, who supposed them to be Runic; Bossi and Hancarville, who asserted that they were Pelasgic; and Rink, who declared he



ENTRANCE TO THE ARSENAL AT VENICE.

The four lions in pentelican marble, one on the left, and the three others on the right of the entrance, are not the least remarkable ornaments about it. They were brought from Greece by Francesco Morosini, surnamed the Peloponnesian, in 1687. The one which occupies the most prominent place in the accompanying engraving formerly adorned the celebrated Piræus at Athens, which also bore the name of the Lion Harbour. There are two inscriptions

had detected Greek words, which when translated gave this sense: "A lion consecrated at Athens." Canova felt no hesitation in pronouncing this sculpture to be a Grecian work, and some scholars have conjectured that it was set up in the Piræus in memory of the battle of Marathon. The first lion on the other side was found on the road from the Piræus to Athens. The head is modern and badly sculptured—a remark also applicable to the other two lions.